In the Title:

Please replace the title with the following amended title.

"~~4-KBITS/S SPEECH CODING~~ Fixed Rate Speech Compression System and Method"

In the Cross Reference to Related Applications Section:

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 1, starting with "This application claims . . ." through page 4, line 10, with the following amended paragraphs.

"This application claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/155,321 entitled "4-KBITS/S SPEECH CODING," ~~(Attorney Docket No. 99RSS485P),~~ filed September 22, 1999; and is a continuation-in-part of United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/574,396 ~~(Attorney Docket No. 246/258)~~, "~~A NEW SPEECH GAIN QUANTIZATION STRATEGY~~ GAIN QUANTIZATION FOR A CELP SPEECH CODER," filed May 19, 2000, and is now United States Patent Number ~~_____~~ 6,782,360 B1, both of which are incorporated by reference in their entirety.

The following commonly assigned U.S. patents and co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. patent applications further describe other aspects of the embodiments disclosed in this application and are incorporated by reference in their entirety.

United States Patent Number 5,689,615. "USAGE OF VOICE ACTIVITY DETECTION FOR EFFICIENT CODING OF SPEECH," issued November 18, 1997.

United States Patent Number 5,774,839, "DELAYED DECISION SWITCHED PREDICTION MULTI-STATE LSF VECTOR QUANTIZATION," issued June 30, 1998.

United States Patent Number ~~Patent Number~~ 6,104,992, "ADAPTIVE GAIN REDUCTION TO PRODUCE FIXED CODEBOOK TARGET SIGNAL," issued August 15, 2000.

United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/156,649 ~~(Attorney Docket No. 95E020)~~, "COMB CODEBOOK STRUCTURE," filed September 18, 1998, and is now United States Patent Number 6,330,531 B1.

United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/365,444 ~~(Attorney Docket No. 97RSS380)~~, "BI-DIRECTIONAL PITCH ENHANCEMENT IN SPEECH CODING SYSTEMS," filed August 2, 1999, and is now United States Patent Number 6,704,701 B1.

United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/156,814 ~~(Attorney Docket No. 98RSS365)~~, "COMPLETED FIXED CODEBOOK FOR SPEECH ENCODER," filed September 18, 1998, and is now United States Patent Number 6,173,257 B1.

United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/761,033, "SYSTEM FOR AN ADAPTIVE EXCITATION PATTERN FOR SPEECH CODING," ~~Attorney Reference Number: 98RSS366 (10508.9)~~, filed on September 15, 2000~~, and is now United States Patent Number~~.

~~United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/574,396 (Attorney Docket No. 99RSS312, "COMPLETED FIXED CODEBOOK FOR SPEECH ENCODER," filed May 19, 2000, and is now United States Patent Number~~.

United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/154,660 ~~(Attorney Docket No. 98RSS384)~~, "SPEECH ENCODER ADAPTIVELY PITCH PREPROCESSING WITH CONTINUOUS WARPING," filed September 18, 1998, and is now United States Patent Number 6,330,533 B2.

United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/154,662 ~~(Attorney Docket No. 98RSS383)~~, "SPEECH CLASSIFICATION AND PARAMETER WEIGHTING USED IN

CODEBOOK SEARCH," filed September 18, 1998, and is now United States Patent Number 6,493,665 B1.

United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/154,675 ~~(Attorney Docket No. 97RSS383)~~, "SPEECH ENCODER USING CONTINUOUS WARPING IN LONG TERM PREPROCESSING," filed September 18, 1998, and is now United States Patent Number 6,449,590 B1.

United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/154,654 ~~(Attorney Docket No. 98RSS344)~~, "PITCH DETERMINATION USING SPEECH CLASSIFICATION AND PRIOR PITCH ESTIMATION," filed September 18, 1998, and is now United States Patent Number 6,507,814 B1.

United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/156,650 ~~(Attorney Docket No. 98RSS343)~~, "SPEECH ENCODER USING GAIN NORMALIZATION THAT COMBINES OPEN AND CLOSED LOOP GAINS," filed September 18, 1998, and is now United States Patent Number 6,260,010 B1.

United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/154,657 ~~(Attorney Docket No. 98RSS328)~~. "SPEECH ENCODER USING A CLASSIFIER FOR SMOOTHING NOISE CODING," filed September 18, 1998~~, and is now United States Patent Number _____~~.

United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/640,841 ~~(Attorney Docket No. 99RSS227)~~, "METHOD FOR SPEECH CODING USING SNR," filed August 16, 2000~~, and is now United States Patent Number _____~~.

United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/643,017 ~~(Attorney Docket No. 99RSS219)~~, "METHOD FOR ROBUST CLASSIFICATION IN SPEECH CODING," filed August 21, 2000~~, and is now United States Patent Number _____~~.

United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/156,648 ~~(Attorney Docket No. 98RSS228)~~, "LOW COMPLEXITY RANDOM CODEBOOK STRUCTURE," filed September 18, 1998, and is now United States Patent Number 6,480,822 B2.

United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/156,416 ~~(Attorney Docket No. 98RSS011)~~, "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETECTING VOICE ACTIVITY AND SILENCE IN A SPEECH SIGNAL USING PITCH LAG AND PITCH GAIN STATISTICS," filed September 18, 1998, and is now United States Patent Number 6,188,981 B1.

United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/154,653 ~~(Attorney Docket No. 97RSS383)~~, "SYNCHRONIZED ENCODER-DECODER FRAME CONCEALMENT USING SPEECH CODING PARAMETERS," filed September 18, 1998, and is now United States Patent Number 6,188,980 B1.

United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/156,826 ~~(Attorney Docket No. 98RSS382)~~, "Adaptive Tilt Compensation For Synthesized Speech Residual," filed September 18, 1998, and is now United States Patent Number 6,385,573 B1."